

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of executing a spoken dialog between a user and a speech-enabled site in a network including a plurality of voice-hyperlinked speech-enabled sites, the method comprising:

acquiring information associated with the user at a first speech-enabled site of the plurality of speech-enabled sites during a first spoken dialog between the user and the first speech-enabled site;

in response to the user initiating a voice hyperlink to access a second speech-enabled site of the plurality of speech-enabled sites, providing the information associated with the user to the second speech-enabled site; and

optimizing a second spoken dialog between the user and the second speech-enabled site by applying the information associated with the user to reduce a number of states of the second spoken dialog.

25. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said optimizing the second spoken dialog comprises using the information associated with the user to reduce a number of items of information the user is required to speak during the second spoken dialog.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said optimizing the second spoken dialog comprises using the information associated with the user to reduce the length of the second dialog.

27-49 (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) An apparatus configured to allow a user to interactively browse a telephony-based network, the apparatus comprising:

means for coupling a user to a first speech-enabled service at a first location on the network;

means for acquiring information associated with the user;

means for outputting an indication audibly detectable by the user, the indication corresponding to a second speech-enabled service at second location on the network;

means for detecting the user speaking an utterance matching the indication;

means for coupling the originating user to the second speech-enabled service in response to the user speaking an utterance matching the audio indication; and

means for providing the information associated with the user to the second speech-enabled service in response to the user speaking an utterance matching the audio indication, the information for use by the second speech-enabled service to optimize a spoken dialog between the user and the second speech-enabled service.

51. (Currently amended) An apparatus as recited in claim ~~47~~ 50, further comprising means for using the information associated with the user at the second speech-enabled site to optimize a spoken dialog between the user and the second speech-enabled site.

52. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a first processing system configured to execute a speech-enabled browser, the browser configured to maintain information associated with a user; and

a second processing system coupled on a network to the first processing system and configured to operate as a speech-enabled site, the second processing system configured to

in response to receiving an access request from a remote user, transmit a request to the browser for the information associated with the user;

receive the information associated with the user in response to transmitting the request;

apply the information associated with the user to optimize a dialog with the user by reducing the number of required states of the dialog; and

execute the optimized dialog with the user.

53. (Original) A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the browser is further configured to broker the information for speech-enabled sites on the network.

54. (Original) A system as recited in claim 53, wherein the browser is configured to broker the information associated with the user by selectively providing the speech-enabled sites with access to the information associated with the user.

55. (Original) A system as recited in claim 53, wherein the browser is configured to broker the information associated with the user by verifying access to the information by executing a user verification process.

56. (Original) A system comprising:

a first processing system configured to execute a speech-enabled browser, the browser configured to maintain information associated with a user; and

a second processing system coupled on a network to the first processing system and configured to operate as a speech-enabled site, the second processing system configured to

maintain data for executing a dialog with a user of a third processing system on the network;

receive an access request corresponding to activation of a voice hyperlink by the user;

in response to receiving the access request, transmit a request to the browser for the information associated with the user;

receive the information associated with the user in response to transmitting the request;

use the information associated with the user to optimize the dialog with the user; and

execute the optimized dialog with the user.

57. (Original) A system as recited in claim 56, wherein the first processing system is configured to broker the information for speech-enabled sites on the network.

58. (Original) A system as recited in claim 57, wherein the first processing system is configured to broker the information associated with the user by selectively providing the speech-enabled sites with access to the information associated with the user.

59. (Original) A system as recited in claim 58, wherein the first processing system is configured to broker the information associated with the user by verifying access to the information by performing a voiceprint analysis of the user.

60. (Canceled).